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ABSTRACT

The bulletin reports on a survey studying birthplace and language characteristics of persons of selected Asian origins living in the United States in spring 1976. Using data from the Survey of Income and Education (SIE) conducted by the Bureau of the Census and the National Center, the document studies Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pilipino, and Vietnamese Americans. The objective is to relate nativity to current language exposure and usage. Data was collected from 160,000 households in independent samples from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Findings show a wide variation between ethnic groups on all counts, and that birthplace is related to current language exposure and usage. Findings show that: 1) 57% of those studied were born in Asia, ranging from 33% of the Japanese to almost all of the Vietnamese; 2) 66% of the subjects live in Asian-speaking households and 40% speak their mother tongue; 3) 60% of the United States-born Asians live in households speaking Asian languages, as compared to more than 80% of the foreign-born; and 4) 95% of the Asians who speak their mother tongue as a primary language were born abroad. However, fewer than half of the foreign-born use the Asian language primarily. The bulletin notes the data source, SIE related reports, percentage of error, and term definitions. Six tables conclude the report showing statistics for each ethnic group and its language characteristics including persons with English-language backgrounds, with Asian-language backgrounds, in English-only households, in Asian-language households, with English usual individual language, and with Asian usual individual language. (CK)

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

BULLETIN

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE/ Education Division

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BIRTHPLACE AND LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS OF CHINESE, JAPANESE, KOREAN, PILIPINO AND VIETNAMESE ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES, SPRING 1976

Over two million persons who identified themselves as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pilipino* and Vietnamese were living in the United States in spring 1976, according to Marie D. Eldridge, Administrator of the National Center for Education Statistics. The largest single group within this total identified itself as Japanese -- 620,000. This was the only group in which a majority of the members was born in the United States.

These data are derived from the Survey of Income and Education conducted nationwide by the Bureau of the Census and the National Center. Among other items, the survey covered the birthplace and language characteristics of the persons surveyed, permitting detailed examination of selected groups such as the selected Asian groups listed above.

SELECTED ASIAN ORIGIN GROUPS

Among the Asian groups studied, Japanese, Chinese and Pilipinos numbered more than half a million each. In addition, there were well over 100,000 each of Koreans and Vietnamese.

Origin	Number of persons
Japanese	620,000
Chinese	578,000
Pilipino	554,000
Korean	175,000
Vietnamese	129,000
Total	2,057,000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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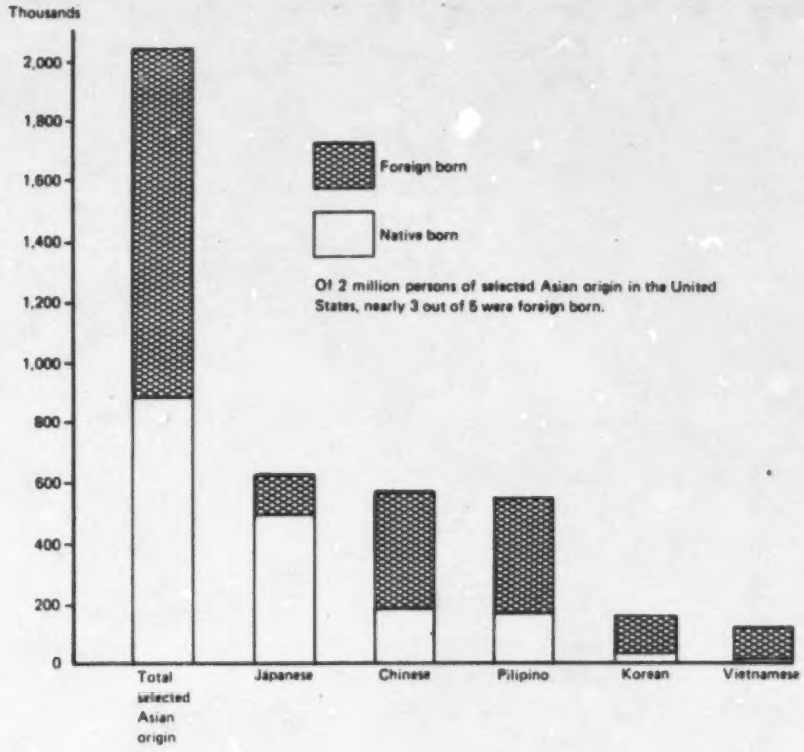
*The terms "Pilipino" and "Filipino" are often used interchangeably. This report uses "Pilipino."

NCES 79-144



NATIVITY

Though they live in the United States, 57 percent (1,200,000) of those studied were born in Asia. In this respect, the Japanese contrasted sharply with the other groups. Nearly three-fourths of the former were born in the United States, while sizable majorities of the other groups were born abroad. In all, two-thirds of the Chinese and Pilipinos and four-fifths of the Koreans were born overseas. Almost all Vietnamese--one of the newest immigrant groups in the United States--were born in Vietnam.

LANGUAGE, ORIGIN AND NATIVITY

Two thirds of the people studied lived in households in which Asian languages were spoken. Nearly two out of five usually spoke their mother tongues, though the proportion varied from group to group. For example, 90 percent of Vietnamese lived in Vietnamese-speaking households and 60 percent usually spoke Vietnamese, whereas only 40 percent of Japanese lived in Japanese-speaking households and 14 percent usually spoke the language.

A person's birthplace was related to his current language exposure and usage. Among U.S.-born Asians, excluding the Japanese, about three out of five lived in households in which Asian languages were spoken. In contrast, more than four out of five Asians born abroad lived in such households. Among Japanese, the difference was even greater. Fewer than a third of U.S.-born Japanese lived in Japanese-speaking households, but nearly 7 in 10 foreign-born Japanese did so. Among Asians who reported speaking their mother tongues as their usual languages, all but about 5 percent were born abroad.

Among the foreign born of the Asian groups studied, fewer than half usually spoke the Asian language. However, the groups varied considerably. Nearly two-thirds of the Vietnamese and Chinese usually spoke those languages. In contrast, fewer than a third of the Pilipinos born in the Philippines reported that they usually spoke a Pilipino language.

	In Asian-language households		With Asian usual language	
	U.S. born	Foreign born	U.S. born	Foreign born
Total	44.1%	82.5%	3.3	48.3%
Chinese	60.8	90.1	(*)	60.6
Japanese	29.1	68.1	3.5	43.4
Korean	62.9	79.9	(*)	49.6
Pilipino	57.5	78.3	(*)	32.2
Vietnamese	(*)	90.8	(*)	64.2

*Base number fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons

SOURCE OF DATA

The Survey of Income and Education (SIE) was conducted by the Bureau of the Census in spring 1976. The SIE questions on language background and current usage were developed by NCES, which provided partial financial support to augment the SIE sample and to add the language questions.

The survey sample consisted of independent samples from all 50 States and the District of Columbia, totaling about 160,000 occupied households. For methodological details about the SIE, see "Assessment of the Accuracy of the Survey of Income and Education" (report to Congress as mandated by the Education Amendments of 1974, submitted by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, dated January 1978).

RELATED REPORTS

The SIE provides, for the first time, State estimates of current language usage as well as language background. In part, the SIE helps to satisfy a congressional mandate to NCES (P.L. 93-380, section 105) to report the number of school-age children and adults with non-English-language backgrounds who have limited English-speaking ability. Companion bulletins have recently been released on place of birth, geographic distribution, age distribution, school progress, and dropout rates of language minorities in the United States; and on place of birth and language characteristics of persons of Hispanic origin in the United States.

A future report to Congress, as called for in P.L. 93-380, will provide an estimate of the number of persons with non-English-language backgrounds who have limited-English-speaking ability.

Information about NCES activities in these areas may be obtained from Dr. Dorothy Waggoner at (202) 245-3397.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Selected Asian Origin. Persons of selected Asian origin (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pilipino and Vietnamese) were identified on the basis of a question asking for the self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin, or the origin of some other household member, from a flash card listing ethnic origins. Persons selecting more than one Asian origin, or an Asian origin and a non-Asian origin, e.g., Japanese and English, were recorded under "Another group not listed". The estimates of persons of Asian origin from the SIE do not, therefore, include children in families in which only one parent is Asian.

Nativity. Native-born persons are those who were born in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or another outlying area. Foreigh-born persons are those who were born in a foreign country.

Language characteristics. Language characteristics were determined on the basis of a series of questions about mother tongue (the language usually spoken in the home of a person aged 14 or older during childhood), the usual household language, any other language currently spoken in the household, and the language usually spoken by an individual household member aged 4 and older.

English-language background. The background of 1) a person 14 years of age or older with English mother tongue currently living in a household in which only English is spoken, and of 2) a child below 14 years of age in an English-only household.

English-only household. A household in which English is the only language spoken.

Selected Asian-language household. A household in which Chinese, Japanese, Korean, a Pilipino language or Vietnamese is spoken either as the usual language or the second household language.

Usual individual language. The language usually spoken by an individual four years of age or older. If a selected Asian language, the language is either Chinese, Japanese, Korean, a Pilipino language or Vietnamese. The individual language question was not asked for children younger than four.

TABLE 1.--Estimated Number of persons of selected Asian origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born	Foreign born						
			Total	China	Japan	Korea	Philip-pines	Vietnam	Other
Total	1/2,057	879	1,179	304	161	140	367	127	80
With English-language backgrounds	404	372	33	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
With selected Asian language backgrounds	2/1,633	496	1,137	303	155	134	349	125	70
In English-only households	259	108	151	19	42	21	51	(*)	(*)
In Selected Asian language backgrounds	3/1,361	388	973	282	113	112	289	117	59
With English usual individual language	608	234	374	74	40	40	167	26	27
With selected Asian usual individual language	599	29	570	203	69	68	121	83	27

*Fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons

1/Includes an estimated 14,000 persons with non-English backgrounds other than Chinese, Pilipin Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese and an estimated 7,000 whose language backgrounds were not ascer tained.

2/Includes an estimated 13,000 persons in households in which non-English languages other than Chinese, Pilipino, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese were spoken.

3/Includes an estimated 6,000 persons whose usual individual language was other than Chinese, Pilipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese or English, and an estimated 148,000 persons whose usual individual language was not ascertained.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 2.--Estimated number of persons of Chinese origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born	Foreign born		
			Total	China	Other
Total	1/ 578	194	383	302	81
With English-language backgrounds	66	61	(*)	(*)	(*)
With Chinese-language backgrounds	2/ 504	128	376	301	74
In English-only households	41	11	31	21	10
In Chinese-language households	3/ 462	118	345	280	63
With English usual individual language	117	74	103	74	29
With Chinese usual individual language	242	(*)	232	201	31

*Fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons.
1/Includes an estimated 4,000 persons with non-English-language backgrounds other than Chinese and an estimated 2,000 whose language backgrounds were not ascertained.
2/Includes an estimated 1,000 persons in households in which non-English languages other than Chinese were spoken.
3/Includes an estimated 4,000 persons whose usual individual language was other than Chinese or English and an estimated 26,000 children younger than 4, and 13,000 other persons whose individual language was not ascertained.
NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 3.--Estimated number of persons of Japanese origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born	Foreign born	
			Total	Japan
Total	1/620	454	2/166	158
With English-language backgrounds	241	234	(*)	(*)
With Japanese-language backgrounds	3/372	215	157	152
In English-only households	127	83	44	43
In Japanese-language households	4/245	132	113	109
With English usual individual language	134	97	37	37
With Japanese usual individual language	88	16	72	69

*Fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons.
1/Includes an estimated 1,000 persons with non-English language backgrounds other than Japanese and an estimated 6,000 whose language backgrounds were not ascertained.
2/Includes an estimated 6,000 persons born abroad elsewhere than in Japan.
3/Includes an estimated 1,000 persons in households in which non-English languages other than Japanese were spoken.
4/Includes an estimated 8,000 children younger than 4 and 15,000 other persons whose individual language was not ascertained.
NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 4.--Estimated number of persons of Korean origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born	Foreign born	
			Total	Korea
Total	1/175	35	2/139	133
With English-language backgrounds	17	(*)	(*)	(*)
With Korean-language backgrounds	157	24	134	128
In English-only households	24	(*)	22	22
In Korean-language households	3/134	22	111	106
With English usual individual language	46	(*)	39	37
With Korean usual individual language	69	(*)	69	65

*Fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons.
1/Includes an estimated 3,000 persons with non-English language backgrounds other than Korean.
2/Includes an estimated 6,000 persons born abroad outside of Korea.
3/Includes an estimated 1,000 persons whose usual individual language was other than Korean or English, an estimated 17,000 children younger than 4 and 1,000 other persons whose individual language was not ascertained.
NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 5.--Estimated number of persons of Pilipino origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born	Foreign born	
			Total	Philippines
Total	1/554	186	2/369	364
With English-language backgrounds	76	63	(*)	(*)
With Philipino-language backgrounds	471	121	350	346
In English-only households	74	13	61	60
In Pilipino-language households	3/397	107	289	286
With English usual individual language	222	54	168	166
With Pilipino usual individual language	123	(*)	119	119

*Fewer than an estimated 15,000 persons.
1/Includes an estimated 7,000 persons with non-English language backgrounds other than Pilipino.
2/Includes an estimated 2,000 persons born abroad outside of the Philippines.
3/Includes an estimated 37,000 children younger than 4 and 15,000 other persons whose individual language was not ascertained.
NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 6.--Estimated numbers of persons of Vietnamese origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: spring 1976

Language characteristics	(Number in thousands) Total	Born in Vietnam
Total	1/129	120
With Vietnamese language backgrounds	2/124	117
In Vietnamese-language households	3/116	109
With English usual individual language	25	25
With Vietnamese usual individual language	77	77

1/Includes an estimated 9,000 persons born in the United States and an estimated 4,000 persons with English-language backgrounds.
2/Includes an estimated 8,000 persons in English-only households
3/Includes an estimated 13,000 children younger than 4 and 1,000 other persons whose individual language was not ascertained.
NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the Bureau of the Census, spring 1976

SURVEY OF INCOME AND EDUCATION
APPROXIMATE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS[1/]

Size of estimate	Standard error
15,000	9,000
25,000	11,000
50,000	16,000
75,000	19,000
100,000	22,000
150,000	27,000
250,000	34,000
500,000	50,000
750,000	61,000
1,000,000	70,000
1,500,000	86,000
2,500,000	110,000

1/ These standard errors, provided by the Census Bureau, are based on some distributions from the 1970 Census and on some factors derived from other sources, not on direct calculations from the sample data. When direct calculations are made, it is likely that most of the standard error estimates will be somewhat lower.